Private and Confidential.

CHRISTIAN WORK

—ON THE—

ISLAND OF CUBA.

NEW ORLEANS, MARCH 16TH, 1875.

It has been our privilege as Bishops of sister Churches, which are one in a common faith, to visit the Island of Cuba. We desire to tell you of work which may be done there for the salvation of men and for the glory of God. In 1871, Bishop Whipple of Minnesota, visited Havana. There was a large population of English, German, Swiss and American Protestants, without the ministrations of religion. They were not only deprived of the help and comforts of public worship—they had no one to administer the Sacraments or give the dead a Christian burial. It was a wrong to our brave seamen and a dishonor to ourselves, that, while Spain guaranteed freedom of worship, we left our own people without spiritual care.

Bishop Whipple sent out the Rev. Edward Kenney in 1871. He is a devout, earnest and prudent man. Under great difficulties and some opposition, he has gone on quietly with his work. He has been at death's door by the yellow fever. His work has been confined to the foreign population. Public services are held every Sunday in the saloon of one of the hotels. One of the largest hospitals is under his spiritual care. He has baptized thirty persons, buried one hundred and twenty-five persons, and made over four thousand visits to the sick and dying. The time has come when this work ought to be placed upon a more secure foundation. We must rent a suitable building and provide for the support of the Pastor. We must soon provide for similar services in other cities. The Consul-General of Great Britain, Mr. Dunlop, the Consul-General of the German Empire, Mr. Zach, the Consul-General of the United States, Mr. Hale, and Mr. Beck and Mr. Lawton, have consented to act as a committee to receive and expend contributions.

Having been permitted, by the Providence of God, to see this work, and realizing its great necessity, we make this statement, and ask the aid of yourself and friends. We believe that it has been carried on in the broad spirit of Christian love, and deserves the alms and prayers of all who love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity and truth. Your gift may be sent to "The Society for the Propagation of the Gospel," or "The Colonial and Continental Society," London; the Missionary Committee of the Protestant Episcopal Church, 23 Bible House, New York; Messrs. S. & W. Welsh, Philadelphia, or to Benjamin E. Lawton, 13 Mercaderes St., Havana.

Assuring you of our kind regard, we are your brothers in Christ,

H. B. WHIPPLE,
Bishop of Minnesota, U. S.

J. HURON,
Bishop of the Diocese of Huron, Canada.

Sent $100 thegue on O.N.B. Aug. 1. '76 by S.J.W. Welsh

Report of the Rev. Edward Kenney.

CUBAN WORK.

NOV., 1871, TO NOV., 1874.

To the House of Bishops.

RIGHT REV. FATHERS IN GOD:

In as few words as possible, I wish to give some account of the Cuban Church work which you authorized and appointed during the month of October, 1871.

Soon after the adjournment of the General Convention of 1871, difficulties arose in regard to the work, which, for a time, threatened to put a stop to it altogether. These difficulties grew out of a correspondence between our government and the authorities of Cuba; and when I consulted with the Hon. Secretary of State he advised the abandonment of the work, on the ground of its being an extremely hazardous undertaking. These difficulties are well known to the Bishops of Maryland, New York and Minnesota, and to Mr. William Welsh, of Philadelphia; and it is unnecessary for me to comment upon them now, except to say that, after consultation with my own diocesan, the Bishop of Maryland, he advised me to take my letter of instructions, sail for Cuba, and endeavor to do that which had been committed to me.

I left New York on the 23d of November, 1871, and when I reached Havana was advised by our Consul General and others to return home, as nothing could be done. The advice was well meant, but I was unwilling to take it. I sought opportunity to fulfil the trust which the Church had committed to me. God helped me; and now, with thanksgiving to Him who hath done it all, I am able to report that our Church work is established on the Island of Cuba.

Prior to the time when the Bishop of Minnesota visited Cuba, English, German, Scotch and American Protestants on the Island were deprived of all religious ministrations, and it was a punishable offence for any clergyman, outside of the Romish priesthood, to hold a service, either publicly or privately, for the people. Five years prior to the Bishop's visit, burial was refused to the Protestant dead, and the sick and the dying were cut off from all consolation, except such as might be given by a corrupt ministry; and the fact that thousands and thousands of our own people and others have sickened and died in this way, now calls upon us to provide some permanent remedy for the future. This state of things has existed so long that the majority of our own people have lost all faith in Christianity, and their children are growing up in the same path of unbelief and infidelity.

There are over 2000 registered Americans on the Island, about the same number of Germans, and a large English population. These have become almost entirely alienated from Christianity and Christian habits, and as they are living amongst a people probably the most corrupt in every particular on the face of our globe to-day, we cannot wonder at their course, especially when we consider that no one has been sent to teach them, and, by Christian living, convince them of the love of Christ which passeth knowledge.

I have found concubinage, and the worst kind of evil living amongst them. In hundreds of cases the law of marriage is entirely disregarded. I am now speaking solely of the religious status of foreigners. I speak of these alone—I think only of remedying this great evil first, because once having remedied such an evil, we shall have a sufficient Christian force to uproot the seat of the corruption, of which it is not wise now even to speak. I found that many of the children of our own people had been baptized in the Romish faith, and many, many more unbaptized, and their parents indifferent about the matter. I am baptizing and ministering amongst these people as fast as I can find them out, but I am all alone, and it is necessarily slow work.

During the first year of our work on the Island, I held our services in the harbor of Havana, under the guns of one of our largest Monitors. We had large congregations and many communicants, hearty responses and good church music. I next sought refuge on the shore at the United States Consulate, and, having crept along thus far, I next held our services in a large saloon in the heart of the city, and have continued this work for nearly two years. The number of communicants at Havana ranges from 30 to 60. During the second year of our work on the Island I opened a mission at the city of Matanzas, 62 miles from Havana. During that year I held evening service there every Sunday. I have been compelled of late to limit my work there to every other Sunday. I need a clergyman for this place, and also for a mission which I have organized at the city of Cardenas, 120 miles from Havana, during the last year.

I wish now to lay some stress upon the work amongst the sick, the dying and the dead. Hundreds of Protestant people die at Havana and at the other seaports every year, of yellow fever. Through the courtesy of the Political Governor I have secured the charge of one of the oldest hospitals on the Island, and in this institution I have been able to care for the sick and the dying, and to bury the dead. When I commenced our work in this institution our dead were being buried like beasts—without coffins, and frequently the clothes were torn from the bodies, and naked and without a word of sympathy or a prayer, our dead were consigned to a pit or trench. We now have a plot of ground outside of the city, where the dead are buried decently, in coffins. This is a work which must be cared for, and the fact that we are endeavoring to do it, and are confronting and conquering the usages of the past, gives greater strength to the cause of Christianity on the Island of Cuba than all the sermons that might be preached.

During the last two years I have made nearly 4000 visits to the sick and the dying, and during the sickly season our burial office has been read, on an average, almost daily in the institution. I did my best last year to provide a chaplain for the hospital, but failed to secure the money to pay for such assistance. During the month of February last I organized a Sunday-school at the city of Havana. It contains 22 scholars, and I teach it myself. I hope to make it the foundation of a day-school for boys and girls. I have already formed from it a Confirmation Class, consisting of four of the oldest scholars. About one year ago a young Creole from Santiago de Cuba presented himself to the Bishop of Long Island to be educated for this work. He is now pursuing his preparatory studies in New York city under my direction.

THE FINANCES.

I submit with this report, the reports of our Treasurer, Mr. Benjamin E. Lawton, for the years 1871, 1872, 1873 and 1874, and the general account of the Trustees in the United States, Messrs. S. and W. Welsh, of Philadelphia. These papers explain themselves. Since the 1st of October, 1872, I have begged all of the money for carrying on this work, and now, as I write this report, I know not where the funds are coming from to pay expenses for the coming year.

I need, at the least, two prudent men to assist me. I need the money to support them and for my own support. In the present financial embarrassment in Cuba I am able to secure but little, comparativeiy speaking, there.

During the greater part of last year Spanish bank bills were at 150 per cent. discount, and even when we are able to secure this money for Christ's work its real value amounts to almost nothing. The Consul General of the German Empire, resident at Havana, has issued a circular calling upon his countrymen to aid our work, and suggests that steps be taken at once to obtain permission for the building of a chapel at Havana. The Consuls General of Great Britain and of the United States advise and suggest the same course, and I humbly beg that steps may be taken to further this plan, and to place our work upon such a sure foundation as may insure for it the confidence and support of American Churchmen, and the sympathy and support of the Church throughout the world. I would here add that the Bishop of London is now working in our behalf.

Our work has been published in Liverpool, England, and I have already received many words of sympathy from the Rector of St. Paul's Church, Liverpool, and a draft for £17.

Respectfully submitted,

EDWARD KENNEY,

In charge of the Church's work on the Island of Cuba.

To the

RT. REV. THE BISHOP OF MARYLAND.
" " " NEW YORK.
" " " PENNSYLVANIA. } *Committee.*
" " " MASSACHUSETTS.
" " " LONG ISLAND.

Resolutions of the House of Bishops.

THE BISHOPS IN COUNCIL.

ST. JOHN'S CHAPEL, NEW YORK,
OCTOBER 29TH, 1874.

FROM THE MINUTES :

The Bishop of Pennsylvania presented and read a report from the Rev. Edward Kenney, a Presbyter of this Church, acting as a missionary in Cuba, and offered the following resolutions, viz :

Resolved, That the Bishops in Council hereby express their deep interest in, and hearty sympathy with, the work of the Rev. Mr. Kenney in Cuba, the report of which has just been read.

Resolved, That this Council cordially endorses the appeal of the Rev. Mr. Kenney for means—

1. To support himself, and needed assistants, and

2. For a fund, which can be used at the discretion of Mr. Kenney, for such cases of need as appeal to him for help in his hospital and pastoral work.

Resolved, That each Bishop be requested to make, if possible, some collection, in such way as he shall think best, for this work, and to enable Mr. Kenney to secure at least two assistants in his important mission.

NOVEMBER 3d, 1874.

On motion of the Bishop of Albany, it was

Resolved, That a committee of five Bishops be appointed to take charge of the matter of making pecuniary provision for the continuance of Church work in Cuba

The chair appointed the Bishops of New York, Pennsylvania, Long Island, Albany and Massachusetts.

Attest : WM. TATLOCK,
Acting Secretary.

Letter of Bishop Henry B. Whipple.

NEW YORK, OCTOBER 20, 1875.

The bearer, Walter H. Gilson, Esq., of the firm of Messrs. Lyles & Gilson, has kindly consented to make efforts to secure the funds necessary to sustain Protestant services in Havana. In 1871 I visited Havana, and found that while Spain guaranteed freedom of worship, there was not only no Protestant service on the Island of Cuba, but no provision to care for the spiritual and temporal welfare of our Protestant population when stricken by disease. I sent out Rev. Edward Kenney, of the Episcopal Church. Public services are regularly maintained, and he has the spiritual care of the best hospital in Havana. He has made over four thousand visits to the sick and dying, thus giving the consolations of religion to many who die in a strange land.

It is a case which will touch the sympathies of every Christian heart, and I do cordially commend this appeal to all who love our Saviour, and who pity the sick and suffering.

H. B. WHIPPLE,
Bishop of Minnesota.

Resolution of the House of Bishops.

The House of Bishops, recently assembled in Council, passed the following Resolution, On motion of the Bishop of Maryland :

"*Resolved*, That the Bishops in council assembled, authorize their commission to declare that the Rev. Edward Kenney is officiating in Cuba by their appointment, and with their entire approval of his work and course thus far."

According to the purpose of the above resolution, I hand it to the Rev. Mr. Kenney, to be used by him as it shall seem fitted to promote his undertaking.

HORATIO POTTER,
Bishop of New York.

New York, Nov. 5th, 1875.

Letter of the Rev. Edward Kenney.

Walter H. Gilson, Esq., of the firm of Messrs. Lyles & Gilson, 12 Platt street, New York City, has been elected by the Havana church committee to secure money for the prosecution of Christian work on the Island of Cuba. The work is meant to meet a crying need which has been felt for upwards of two hundred years. The sick and the suffering—the dying and the distressed—amongst the Protestant people of Cuba—have been calling upon us for help ever since we became a nation, but no response was made, and no help volunteered until the year 1871, when the House of Bishops of the United States attempted to supply the need. Until then no Protestant clergyman ever set his foot on shore to prosecute any Christian mission.

The work which we now have in hand was commenced at the cannon's mouth in the harbor of Havana, under the protection of the American Flag; because the preacher was not allowed to carry his message—not even to the dying on the land. During four years we have fought on the way—inch by inch—and by prudence, by prayer, and by the courage which Jesus Christ alone can give, the chief obstacles have been thrown aside.

We now have a hospital where the wants of all are attended to—and the dead are decently coffined, and buried with Christian burial in a plot of ground set apart for our use outside of the city of Havana. Over six thousand visits have been made to the sick

during three years. The poor have been clothed, and the distressed and afflicted have had, at the least, a hearing—and some sympathy.

We have carried the Christian work into three cities—covering 120 miles of country.

We have services and preaching at Havana throughout the year; the same at Matanzas, and also at the city of Cardenas, as occasion permits.

There is but one man at present doing this work, we need two more. The undertaking should be prosecuted with vigor, and as though we meant it. It is a work amongst the scattered, and burdened, and distressed, and is peculiarly Christ's work, and appeals to all who recognize the fact that our Lord Jesus Christ is the Saviour of men, and the strength and stay of our humanity.

EDWARD KENNEY,

Clergyman in charge of the work.

To WALTER H. GILSON, Esq.

Action of the Havana Church Committee.

This is to certify that at a meeting of the Havana Church Committee, consisting of the Hon. Henry C. Hall, the Hon. A. Graham Dunlop, the Hon. F. W. Zach, Carlos E. Beck, Esq., Walter H. Gilson, Esq., Benjamin E. Lawton, Esq., Treasurer, Mr. Walter H. Gilson was requested to act as a committee of one to raise funds in the United States to aid in carrying on this work. All money secured for this purpose to be placed in the hands of the Trustees, Messrs. S. and W. Welsh, of Philadelphia, subject to the draft of the Treasurer and vote of the Committee.

EDWARD KENNEY,

Clergyman in charge of work.

Havana, June 7, 1875.

{ U. S. CONSULATE GENERAL,
{ HAVANA, JUNE 7, 1875.

I certify that the foregoing is the true and genuine signature of the Rev. Edward Kenney, clergyman in charge of the Protestant Episcopal Church of Havana, and that the facts set forth in the certificate signed by him are, to my knowledge, true, and entitled to full faith and credit.

{ L. S. } Given under my hand and official seal the 7th day of June, A. D. 1875.

HENRY C. HALL,

Consul General.

NEW YORK CITY, Oct 25th, 1875.

To GEORGE H. FITZWILSON, Esq., New York City,

MY DEAR SIR:—You are hereby authorized and requested to solicit and receive subscriptions to the Havana church and hospital, and in every way to act in my stead in the United States.

Enclosed you will find letters from Bishop Whipple, of Minnesota, and the Rev. Edward Kenney of Havana.

Very truly your obedient servant,

W. H. GILSON.

In reference to the above letter, giving you the authority to solicit money and aid for this important work—

I ask you to give the matter as much of your time as you conveniently can. We are greatly in need of funds.

I am very grateful to you for your kindness, I remain

Sincerely yours,

EDWARD KENNEY.

New York, Oct 25th, 1875.

To GEORGE H. FITZWILSON, Esq.